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### Supplementary Estimates for Ontario

The supplementary estimates brought down last week, increase the main estimates for Ontario by \$407,330.64, making a total expenditure for the year of \$7,969,206.31, or close to the \$8,000,000 mark. The chief estimates in the supplementary estimates are \$100,000 for the Quebec celebrations this summer, and \$90,000 for the expenses of elections. The provincial board of health gets \$3,900 for the tuberculosis campaign, and education \$19,605.00 extra, of which \$1800 is for the Macdonald Consolidated School at Guelph, and \$2,400 additional for agricultural training in high schools.

The main estimates for agriculture are increased by \$40,732. Of this amount \$20,000 goes for the Ontario Veterinary College, which the Department of Agriculture will take over this summer; \$10,000 of this is for the museum and good will, and \$10,000 for the staff, rental and contingencies. The Government is preparing to take over the College as a Departmental institution, in time for the fall term. The details of the plan will be worked out during the summer.

There is a special grant of \$5,000 for forestry work. This will be devoted to experimental work, in tree planting, the object being to reclaim waste land, by planting to trees, and ultimately producing forest lands in older Ontario. This appropriation is only preliminary, and if the work proves successful, it will be extended, until all the waste lands in the older parts of the province are covered with trees. This work is to be commended. There is a large area of lands in older Ontario fit for nothing else than tree growing, and if it can be utilized in this way the country will be beautified. Prof. Zavitz, Forester at the Ontario Agricultural College, will have charge of the work.

The Ontario Agricultural College gets an additional appropriation for buildings of \$7,750; \$3,000 of this is for a new incubator house, and \$3,000 for a double house for the gardeners; \$1,000 is for repairs to the engine house, and the balance for other necessary repairs.

An interesting item is that of \$20,000 for the purchase of a Central Prison farm. The Government is planning to develop prison labor along the line of agriculture, the purpose being to acquire lands conveniently located upon which prison labor will be expended, rather than in the production of manufactured goods, which come into competition with private interests. Whether the farmer will resent this entrance upon his preserve remains to be seen. If the work is confined to the production of such products as sugar beets there can be little objection taken to it.

### Field Crop Competitions

Having in view the excellent results obtained last year in stimulating a greater interest in the production of better seed grain, Agricultural Societies will again be assisted in the holding of competitions in standing field crops during 1908, under the following regulations: Competitions shall be limited to one crop, to be selected by the society, which should be the one of most importance to the farmers of the district. Entries for competition must consist of a field of not less than five acres, and where beans and potatoes are entered, the minimum plot not less than one acre. Selection must be made from the following crops, viz.: Spring, Fall or Goose wheat, oats, barley, corn, peas, Alsike clover, red clover, potatoes,

beans or any other staple crop produced for seed in Ontario.

Competition shall be limited to members of agricultural societies, and the fields entered must not be more than fifteen miles from headquarters. Competitors shall be allowed to make entry in only one society and but one entry can be made by each competitor. Societies desiring to enter this competition must notify the Superintendent not later than the first day of May, and must make not less than ten entries nor more than twenty-five. All individual entries must be forwarded by the secretaries to J. Lockie Wilson, Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, before the first of June, 1908. Societies may, if thought advisable, charge competitors an entry fee of not more than one dollar.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture will contribute \$30.00 to each society on condition that prizes to the amount of \$50.00 be offered, these prizes to be not less than \$5.00, \$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00, \$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00, \$40.00, \$45.00, \$50.00. The Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture will provide expert judges for these competitions free of cost to the societies.—J. Lockie Wilson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

### Endorses Individual Records

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World.—I have been interested in cow testing for several years. I commenced weighing individual cows' milk four years ago, through reading about the cows that were only boarders. To my astonishment, I found that had some of that kind of cows. I would not have believed it had I not started to weigh each cow's milk. The result of my efforts in this work is that I have today one of the best milking herds in this section. When I found a cow that was only a boarder, the first chance I got I sent her to board on some one else, taking whatever I could get for her, for a poor cow is dear at any price. I do not know anything that has been such a benefit to me financially, as the weighing of individual cows' milk. The cost of carrying on the experiment is small, and so many good things follow the work that I cannot too strongly recommend to my brother dairy farmers, the value of weighing each cow's milk separately. Keep the best cows that your means will allow you to buy. The best is none too good for the man who does the work. If you have not good cows at present, my suggestion would be to procure a good strain of milkers. Follow this up with sires of the best milking pure breeds within your reach. Which ever breed you select, get all means see that you get a good milking strain as there are bad families as well as good ones in all breeds.—H. L. Ont

### Items of Interest

The fruit institute is taking the place of the co-operative fruit meeting this year. Formerly speakers were sent out to talk co-operation at meetings arranged for by the co-operative societies, or when the formation of societies was talked of.

The chief development in Institute work just now is the forming of farmers' clubs. A great many of these have been organized in the past year. These clubs though organized in connection with the regular institutes, are independent in the sense that they elect their own officers. The Department supplies a speaker for one meeting a year, when requested. It is hoped, however, that the club will develop local talent, and in this way, be of special benefit to Institute work as a whole.